

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-23. (Cancelled).

Claim 24. (New) An isolated or recombinant polynucleotide encoding an antigenic polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 25. (New) The polynucleotide of Claim 24, wherein the antigenic polypeptide comprises:

- a) residues 1-101 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- b) residues 102-195 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- c) residues 196-297 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- d) residues 1-328 of SEQ ID NO:2; or
- e) residues 1-606 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 26. (New) The polynucleotide of Claim 24 comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 27. (New) An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 24.

Claim 28. (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of Claim 27.

Claim 29. (New) The host cell of Claim 28, wherein the host cell is:

- a) a mammalian cell;
- b) an insect cell;
- c) a bacterial cell; or
- d) a yeast cell.

Claim 30. (New) A method of producing an antigenic polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 comprising:

- a) culturing the host cell of Claim 28 under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide; and
- b) isolating or purifying the polypeptide.

Claim 31. (New) A kit comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 24, and:

- a) a compartment comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 24;
 - b) a compartment comprising a nucleic acid encoding an IL12R β 1 polypeptide;
- or
- c) instructions for use or disposal of reagents in the kit.